

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-7 and 10-13 have been objected to as containing informalities; Claims 1, 4 and 10-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Fujii et al. in view of Kaji et al.; and Claims 5-9 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1 and 4-15 remain active.

Considering first then the Examiner's objection to Claims 1, 4-7 and 10-13, it is to be noted that such claims have now been amended for closer compliance with U.S. patent practice and procedure. It is therefore submitted that such amendments properly respond to the Examiner's objections to the claims.

Next considering then the rejection of Claims 1, 4 and 10-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Fujii et al. in view of Kaji et al., it is to be noted that Claim 1 has now been amended so as to incorporate substantially all the limitations of objected to Claim 5, with minor revisions made thereto where necessary for closer compliance with U.S. practice, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter. In view of these amendments and in view of the additional changes made to Claim 1 to overcome the objection to the same, it is respectfully submitted that such claim now merits indication of allowability along with all claims dependent therefrom. It is also noted that Claim 7 has now been placed in independent form. In view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claim 7, it is submitted that such claim also merits indication of allowability.

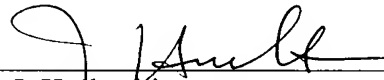
Applicants further note that Claim 14 has now also been amended so as to include substantially all of the limitations of Claim 5 with minor revisions made thereto where

necessary for compliance with U.S. practice, and it is therefore submitted that Claim 14 also merits indication of allowability, along with Claim 15 which is dependent therefrom.

In view of the foregoing, an early and favorable Office Action is believed to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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